

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A file transfer system, comprising:
a file management server;
a file transmitting terminal; and
a file receiving terminal;

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wherein

said file management server, said file
transmitting terminal, and said file receiving
terminal are connected each other via a network;

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said file transmitting terminal transmits
to said file management server a file and a
corresponding authorization condition for accessing
said file;

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said file management server stores said
file and said corresponding authorization condition
transmitted from said file transmitting terminal;

said file receiving terminal transmits to
said file management server a request for
transferring said file; and

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said file management server, in response to
said request transmitted by said file receiving

terminal, if said corresponding authorization condition stored therein is satisfied, transfers the file to said file receiving terminal.

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2. The file transfer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein

10 said authorization condition corresponding to said file is a password for accessing said file; and

 said file management server, if a password transmitted with said request by said file receiving
15 terminal matches said password transmitted by said file transmitting terminal, transmits said file to said file receiving terminal.

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3. The file transfer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein

 said authorization condition is one or more
25 user IDs that are authorized to access said file; and

said file management server, if a user ID
transmitted with said request by said file receiving
terminal is included in said one or more user IDs
transmitted by said file transmitting terminal,
5 transmits said file to said file receiving terminal.

10 4. The file transfer system as claimed in
claim 1, wherein

said authorization condition is the
membership of a group that is authorized to access
said file; and

15 said file management server, if a user ID
transmitted with said request by said file receiving
terminal is a member of said group, transmits said
file to said file receiving terminal.

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5. The file transfer system as claimed in
claim 1, wherein

25 said file transmitting terminal transmits

an effective period corresponding to said file;

said file management server stores the
corresponding effective period with said file; and

said file management server, if the
5 corresponding effective period has expires, prohibits
said file from being transmitted.

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6. The file transfer system as claimed in
claim 5, wherein said file management server, if the
corresponding effective period has expired, deletes
said file.

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7. The file transfer system as claimed in
20 claim 1, wherein

said file transmitting terminal transmits
an effective number of transfers corresponding to
said file;

said file management server stores the
25 corresponding effective number of transfers with said

file; and

said file management server, if the number
of transfers of said file reaches the corresponding
effective number of transfers, prohibits said file
5 from being transmitted.

10 8. The file transfer system as claimed in
claim 7, wherein said file management server, if the
number of transfers of said file reaches the
corresponding effective number of transfers, deletes
said file.

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9. The file transfer system as claimed in
20 claim 1, further comprising a user terminal connected
to said file management server via said network;

wherein

said user terminal acquires the address of
said file receiving terminal and transmits the
25 address to said file management server;

said file management server stores the address of said file receiving terminal transmitted from said user terminal and; and

5 said file management server, in response to said request for transmitting said file from said file receiving terminal, if the address of said file receiving terminal match the stored address.

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10. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said file receiving terminal prints or stores, in a recording medium, said file received
15 from said file management server.

20 11. A file management server connected to a file transmitting terminal and a file receiving terminal via a network, comprising:

 a communication unit that exchanges data with an external apparatus via said network;

25 a first storage unit that stores a file and

an authorization condition for accessing said file
related each other; and

a file transferring unit that, in response
to a request for transferring said file stored in
5 said first storage unit from said file receiving
terminal, if said authorization condition is
satisfied, transfers said file to said file receiving
terminal.

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12. The file management server as claimed
in claim 11, wherein

15 said authorization condition corresponding
to said file is a password for accessing said file;
and

said file transferring unit, if a password
transmitted with said request matches said password
20 stored in said first storage unit, transfers said
file to said file receiving terminal.

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13. The file management server as claimed
in claim 11, wherein

said authorization condition corresponding
to said file is one or more user IDs; and

5 said file transferring unit, if a user ID
transmitted with said request is included in said one
or more user IDs stored in said first storage unit,
transfers said file to said file receiving terminal.

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14. The file management server as claimed
in claim 11, further comprising a second storage unit
15 that stores group name and user IDs of group members;

wherein

said authorization condition stored in said
first storage unit is said group name; and

20 said file transferring unit, if a user ID
transmitted with said request is included in said
group members, transfers said file to said file
receiving terminal.

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15. The file management server as claimed
in claim 11, wherein

said first storage unit further stores the
effective period of said file; and

5 said file transfer unit, if the effective
period of said file has expired, avoids transferring
said file to said file receiving terminal.

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16. The file management server as claimed
in claim 15, wherein said file transferring unit, if
the effective period of said file has expired,

15 deletes said file.

20 17. The file management server as claimed
in claim 11, wherein

said first storage unit further stores the
effective number of transfers of said file; and

25 said file transfer unit, if the number of
transfers of said file reaches the effective number

stored in said first storage unit, avoids
transferring said file to said file receiving
terminal.

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18. The file management server as claimed
in claim 17, wherein said file transferring unit, if
10 the number of transfers of said file reaches the
effective number, deletes said file.

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19. The file management server as claimed
in claim 14, wherein

said second storage unit stores the address
of said file receiving terminal transmitted from a
20 user terminal, and

said file transferring unit, in response to
a request for transferring said file, said request
transmitted from said file receiving terminal, only
if the address of said file receiving terminal
25 matches the address stored in said first storage unit,

transmits said file to said file receiving terminal.

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20. A file transfer method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a file and an authorization
condition for accessing said file transmitted by a
10 file transmitting terminal;
storing said file and said authorization
condition transmitted by said file transfer terminal;
receiving a request for transmitting said
file designated from a file receiving terminal;
15 determining, in response to said request,
whether said authorization condition is satisfied;
and
transmitting, if said authorization
condition is satisfied, said file to said file
20 receiving terminal.

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21. A computer program that causes a

computer to perform the steps of:

receiving a file and an authorization
condition for accessing said file transmitted by a
file transmitting terminal;

5 storing said file and said authorization
condition transmitted by said file transfer terminal;

receiving a request for transmitting said
file designated from a file receiving terminal;

determining, in response to said request,
10 whether said authorization condition is satisfied;
and

transmitting, if said authorization
condition is satisfied, said file to said file
receiving terminal.

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22. An image forming system, comprising:

20 a stored document management server;

a first image forming apparatus that stores
a stored document; and

a second image forming apparatus;

wherein

25 said stored document management server,

said first image forming apparatus, and said second image forming apparatus are connected each other via a network;

said first image forming apparatus
5 transmits to said stored document management server said stored document and an authorization condition for accessing said stored document;

said file management server stores the transmitted stored document and the transmitted
10 authorization condition relating each other;

said second image forming apparatus transmits to said stored document management server a request for transferring the stored document; and

said stored document management server, in
15 response to said request transmitted by said second image forming apparatus, if the stored authorization condition is satisfied, transfers the stored document to said second image forming apparatus.

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23. A stored document management server connected to a first image forming apparatus and a
25 second image forming apparatus via a network,

comprising:

a communication unit that exchanges data with said first and second image forming apparatuses via said network;

5 a first storage unit that stores a stored document and an authorization condition for accessing said stored document related each other; and

a stored document transferring unit that, in response to a request for transferring said stored document stored in said first storage unit from a second image forming apparatus, if said authorization condition is satisfied, transfers said stored document to said image forming apparatus.

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24. An image forming system, comprising:

a first image forming apparatus;

20 a user terminal; and

a second image forming apparatus;

wherein

said first image forming apparatus, said user terminal, and said second image forming apparatus are connected each other via a network;

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said first image forming apparatus stores a
stored document and an authorization condition for
accessing said stored document relating each other
and, in response to a request from said user terminal,
5 if said authorization condition is satisfied,
transmits said stored document and said authorization
condition to said second image forming apparatus; and
said second image forming apparatus stores
said stored document and said authorization condition
10 relating each other and, if said authorization
condition is satisfied, prints said stored document.

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25. An image forming system, comprising:
a first image forming apparatus;
a stored document management server;
a user terminal; and
20 a second image forming apparatus;
wherein
said first image forming apparatus, said
stored document management server, said user terminal,
and said second image forming apparatus are connected
25 each other via a network;

said first image forming apparatus stores a
stored document and an authorization condition for
accessing said stored document relating each other
and, in response to a request from said user terminal,
5 if said authorization condition is satisfied,
transmits said stored document and said authorization
condition to said stored document management server;
said stored document management server
stores said stored document and said authorization
10 condition transmitted from said first image forming
apparatus relating each other and, in response to a
request for transmitting said stored document from
said second image forming apparatus, if said
authorization condition for accessing said stored
15 document is satisfied, transmits said stored document
to said second image forming apparatus; and
said second image forming apparatus prints
said stored document transmitted from said stored
document management server.

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26. An image forming apparatus connected
25 with another image forming apparatus via a network,

comprising:

a communication unit that exchanges data
via said network;

a storage unit that stores a stored
5 document and an authorization condition for accessing
said stored document received said other image
forming apparatus relating each other;

an operations input unit;

an image forming unit that, in response to
10 reception of a request for printing said stored
document, if said authorization condition for
accessing said stored document is satisfied, prints
said stored document.

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27. The image forming apparatus as claimed
in claim 26, wherein

20 said image forming apparatus is further
connected to a user terminal via said network; and
said communication unit, in response to a
transfer request from said user terminal, is said
transfer request satisfies said authorization
25 condition, transmits said stored document and said

authorization condition stored in said storage unit
to a destination.

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28. The image forming apparatus as claimed
in claim 26, wherein said transfer request includes
said destination, a password as said authorization
10 information for accessing said stored document, and a
registration code of said stored document that said
communication unit has received from said user
terminal via said network.

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29. The image forming apparatus as claimed
in claim 26, wherein said transfer request includes
20 said destination, said authorization condition for
accessing said stored document, and a registration
code of said stored document that are input by said
operations input unit.

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30. An image forming apparatus connected with a stored document management server and a user terminal via a network, comprising:

5 a communication unit that exchanges data via said network;

 a storage unit that stores a stored document and an authorization condition for accessing said stored document relating each other; and

10 an image forming unit that prints said stored document;

 wherein

 said communication unit, in response to reception of a request for transmitting said stored document from said user terminal, if said request
15 satisfies said authorization condition stored in said storage unit, transmits said stored document and said authorization condition to said stored document management server.